

O A K H A M

R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

-----oOo-----

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the



M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R   E N D I N G

31ST.   D E C E M B E R.   1953

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OAKHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1953

My Lord, Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine :-

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres).....	52,551
Registrar General's estimate of population..	9,298
Number of inhabited houses.....	2,085
Rateable Value .....	£ 49,087
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£ 189.11.5d.

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	81	90	171
Illegitimate	2	4	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	83	94	177
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still Births - Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	2	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	<u>Rate for District</u>	<u>Rate for England and Wales</u>
Birth Rate	23.0	15.5
Death Rate	8.6	11.4
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	28.2	26.8

These statistics can be regarded as satisfactory, the Birth Rate being higher and the Death Rate lower than the Rates given for England and Wales.

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis respiratory	--	1
Other infective and parasitic disease	--	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm breast	--	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	2	5
Diabetes	--	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	6
Coronary disease, angina	7	--
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	4	9
Other circulatory disease	--	2
Influenza	1	--
Pneumonia	--	1
Bronchitis	3	--
Nephritis & nephrosis	2	--
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3
Motor vehicle accidents	2	--
All other accidents	5	2
Suicide	1	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	37	35
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Camb.  
The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - G.E. Wells, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination, Royal Sanitary Institute Meat and Other Foods and Certificates General Hygiene and Sanitary Engineering.  
The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor of the Rural District.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations from your area were carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester :-

Faeces	24
Urine	5
Blood	5
Throat Swab	3
Ear Swab	3
Sputum	4
Vomit	1
Pus	3
Water	58
Sewage	1
Milk	18



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIONS  
AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1953.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases.</u> <u>Notified.</u>	<u>Cases Admitted</u> <u>to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	11	1	-
Measles.	61	-	-
Whooping Cough.	24	-	-
Pneumonia.	21	2	-
Poliomyelitis.	3	2	-
Dysentery.	4	-	-
Malaria.	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-

There was no serious epidemic during the year. Three cases of Poliomyelitis were notified, but one was not confirmed after admission to Hospital and on investigation it was found that in the other two cases the infection was contracted outside the district.

AGE GROUP.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Under</u> <u>1.</u>	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>2</u> <u>3</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u>	<u>5</u> <u>10</u>	<u>10</u> <u>15</u>	<u>15</u> <u>20</u>	<u>20</u> <u>35</u>	<u>35</u> <u>45</u>	<u>45</u> <u>65</u>	<u>65 &amp;</u> <u>over.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	2	-	2	4	2	-	-	-	1	-
Measles.	-	2	4	9	10	25	6	2	3	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	2	3	1	2	3	12	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	1	6	2	4	2
Poliomyelitis.	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Malaria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

# TUBERCULOSIS.

Age	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

On notification of a new case of Tuberculosis, a sample of the milk is submitted for biological examination.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water Supply

Number of Samples taken for analysis :-	
(a) from wells .....	15
(b) from pipe supply .....	42
Results from samples taken :-	
(a) from wells - satisfactory	1
unsatisfactory	14
(b) from pipe supply - satisfactory	37
unsatisfactory	5
Number of wells :-	
(a) closed .....	Nil
(b) cleansed, repaired, etc., .....	6
Number of cases in which piped supply was provided	54
Number of Parishes with piped water supply :-	
(a) from public mains .....	8
(b) from private reservoirs .....	9
Number of Parishes without a piped water supply	11

When necessary in 1953, repairs were carried out to the various water undertakings owned by the Council, and a further number of water connections made for purposes of domestic supplies, figures of the total number of premises concerned being overleaf.

During 1953 the subject of linking up the District with the proposed Leicestershire Scheme of water supply from the River Dove was again discussed, and it was decided that the Council should apply for a supply to be reserved for this area when the scheme became operative.

In view of the difficulties involved in maintaining a satisfactory water supply to the village of Manton from the bore and spring in the village, application was made for water from the Empingham pumphouse (already connected to Edithweston) to be provided there, and the necessary permission to extend the main was obtained with a view to the work being carried out in 1954.

There were serious complaints in connection with the excessive amount of iron in water from the Market Overton bore, and after consideration of reports on the matter, it was decided to instal a Filtration Plant.



On 13th. October, 1953 Mr. C.H.Spens, M.I.C.E., one of the Ministry's Engineers investigated the possibilities of affording the villages of Ashwell, Burley, Cottesmore, Greetham, Langham and Stretton with piped supplies from springs in the parish of Empingham, and I am pleased to note that the Scheme submitted by the Council's Consulting Engineers has been approved, although I regret the supply to Ashwell has been omitted.

Particulars of the supplies to the villages where the Oakham Rural District has water undertakings are as follows :-

	<u>Piped to Houses</u>	<u>Houses supplied from stand-pipes</u>	<u>Farm Supplies</u>
Edith Weston.	73	-	3
Empingham.	117	40	14
Manton.	71	31	6
Market Overton.	80	34	8
Barrow.	9	11	3
Whissendine.	110	64	4
Greetham.	3	134	-
Teigh.	11	-	9
	—	—	—
	474	314	47
	==	==	==

#### Drainage and Sewerage

Number of Cesspools constructed during the year ..... 6  
 Number of Cesspools abolished during the year ..... 2  
 Total number on 31st. December, 1953 ..... 371

Attention was given and repairs carried out, where necessary, to existing sewers at Langham and other villages during the course of the year, including the re-laying of a further length of defective main sewer at Whissendine which became obstructed.

The work of providing the new Sewerage system at Market Overton was completed during 1953 and the necessary house-connections made, so that the majority of houses in the village now have water-lavatories.

An investigation was made on 14th. October, 1953 by Mr. C. H. Spens, M.I.C.E., on behalf of the Ministry, into the problem of sewerage the village of Langham. In addition to the insufficiency of the water supply at the moment in the village, I note the particular difficulty created by the flat nature of the land, and hope that the new water system now to be provided, together with the amended plans of the Consulting Engineers, will enable this work to go forward.

An investigation was also made by Col. S.K.Gilbert, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., on behalf of the Ministry, into the Sewerage Scheme for the village of Exton, and now that approval has been given, it seems that this welcome improvement will materialize in the near future.

#### Closet Accommodation

Total number in the District at the end of 1953 :-

Privies ..... 14  
 Pail Closets ..... 1434  
 Water Closets ..... 637

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year :-

Privies ..... Nil  
 Pail Closets ..... 41

Number of privies converted to pail closets during the year.....Nil.

Public Cleansing

13 of the villages in the District - Cottesmore, Exton, Empingham, Edithweston, Langham, Market Overton, Greetham, Tickencote, Manton, Thistleton, Teigh, Whitwell and Stretton, are now provided with weekly collections of refuse carried out by the Contractors on behalf of the Council, and a fortnightly collection is also made at Barleythorpe and Branston. A partial removal is provided for Ashwell, Barrow, Whissendine Brooke, Hambleton, Gunthorpe, Lyndon and part of Horn. Weekly collections of refuse by the Council are also carried out at the Married Quarters of the R.A.F. Station at Cottesmore and the R.C.A.F. Station at Edithweston.

Up to September 1953, the first named thirteen villages and part of Barleythorpe were provided with a weekly scavenging system of night soil carried out by Contractors on behalf of the Council. Since then, following the completion of the new sewage disposal works in Market Overton, the Council have discontinued night soil collection in that village and the majority of the houses are now provided with water lavatories. The Council arrange for the periodical emptying of the village septic tanks at Ashwell and Cottesmore and in addition to those on the various housing site in the District, three septic tanks at Empingham are emptied by Contract.

In view of the heavy additional cost likely to be involved, it has been decided to continue for the time being with the present method of scavenging by Contract.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this report :-

Total number of complaints received ... ..	469
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered ... ..	425

<u>Nature of Inspections</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Re-visits</u>
Dwelling Houses ...	523	989
Tents, Vans etc., ...	9	15
Slaughter houses ...	8	-
Dairies and cowsheds ...	2	16
Offensive trades ...	-	-
Animal keeping ...	11	23
Workshops, etc., ...	23	36
Shops ...	21	40
Other premises ...	390	631
	<u>987</u>	<u>1750</u>

The Sanitary Inspector made 1412 visits to the various parishes of the district. In addition 33 visits were made outside the District.

Notices

	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
<u>Preliminary</u>		
Outstanding 1st. January	11	5
Issued during the year	289	189
Complied with during year	295	191
Statutory action necessary	1	-
Outstanding 31st. December	5	3



<u>Statutory.</u>	<u>Housing.</u>	<u>Other.</u>
Outstanding 1st. January	11	-
Issued during the year	6	-
Complied with during year	5	-
Statutory action necessary	1	-
Outstanding 31st. December	12	-

### Shops.

21 inspections and 40 re-visits were made to shops in the district during the year and action was taken under the Shops Act in respect of the sanitary arrangements at one Shop.

### Camping Sites.

Number of sites in the area used for  
camping purposes during the year ... .. 6  
Number of camping sites for which licences  
have been issued ... ..  
Estimated maximum number of campers  
resident in the area during Summer months.. ... 25  
(This figure does not include the campers resident  
in various officially organised Agricultural and  
Services Camps in the District)

### Regulated Buildings.

	<u>Number in</u> <u>District.</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>of</u> <u>Inspections.</u>
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	8	24

During 1953, the Council dealt with two cases of unsatisfactory conditions arising from the occupation by families of definitely unsuitable dwellings. One of these cases which arose from the continued occupation of a caravan for a considerable time past, was finally cleared up when the occupant accepted the Council's offer of a house.

The second case arose through the use of a hut and land by a family during the summer months, without previous submission of plans of the building. Owing to the unsatisfactory condition of this accommodation, notice to remove was given, and in due course a summons was issued, and a Magistrate's Order obtained. The family was rehoused in one of the Council's own cottages.

## H O U S I N G.

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	523
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1512
(11)		Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 and Housing Survey	18
(111)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(1V)		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those	

referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

295

Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... .. 289

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice under Housing Acts :-
- (a) by owners ... .. Nil
- (b) by Council (in default of owners carrying out work) ... .. Nil
- (11) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-
- (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 6
- (b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice ... .. 5
- By Owners ... .. 5
- By Council ... .. Nil
- (111) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
- Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of the Demolition Orders ... Nil

Housing Act, Part 1V. Overcrowding.

- (1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... .. 7
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein ... .. 8
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein ... .. 41
- (11) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. 2
- (111) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. 4
- (1V) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... .. 13

There is some evidence that incidence of overcrowding has declined during the past few years.

Provision of New Houses during the Year.

During the year 1953, twenty-two houses were completed by the Council in the parishes of Manton, Braunston, Ashwell, Barrow and Cottesmore, and five houses were built and four buildings converted for use as dwellings by private owners. Further houses were built by the R.A.F. Authorities at Cottesmore and R.C.A.F. Authorities at Edithweston for use as Married Quarter. At the close of the year, the Council had six houses at



Cottesmore, four at Greetham, twelve at Exton and eight at Braunston under construction and four others were being erected by private owners.

The number of applicants for Council Houses on the Housing Register at 31st. December, 1953 was 192.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk Supply

Number of Dairies (not being Farm Premises) on Register .....	2
Number of inspections of premises .....	18
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year .....	-
Contraventions found during year .....	1
Contraventions remedied during year .....	1
Number of contraventions outstanding 31st.Dec. 1953 .....	-

During the year 14 samples of milk were taken for analysis. No ice cream is manufactured in this area for sale, but there are 8 premises on the Council's list from which pre-packed ice cream is sold.

#### Meat and Other Foods

15 inspections were made of Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc., and 61 inspections of premises where food other than meat is kept or prepared for sale.

In addition to the existing meat preparing rooms belonging to various Butchers of the district, a small building was converted in 1953 for the purpose of making meat pies.

The following quantities of food were condemned during 1953 as unfit for human consumption :-

12 lbs. of Cheese.  
Offal of one pig 12 lbs.

The usual method of disposing of condemned food in this district is by burning.

Private Slaughter Houses :-	<u>In Jan. 1953.</u>	<u>In Dec. 1953.</u>
Number registered .....	-	-
Number licensed .....	8	8

Number of visits to premises other than at times of slaughter.....8

The Model Byelaws for the Handling and Wrapping of Food, which were adopted by the Council in 1950 have, as a general rule, been observed by the local Food Retailers.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case occurred in 1953 in which it was necessary to take action.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN YOUNG  
Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,  
Melton Mowbray.







